

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W  
-----151155Z 037646 /22

R 151031Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4330  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0522

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, GY  
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S HEALTH

REF: GEORGETOWN 0408

1. CHRONICLE OF MARCH 13, 1977 CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT  
PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM ATTENDED CABINET MEETING MARCH 8 AND  
HAS RESUMED HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM  
VARIOUS SOURCES, ACTING PM REID PRESIDED OVER THE CABINET  
MEETING IN BURNHAM'S PRESENCE.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE ON MARCH 12, PERMANENT  
SECRETARY IN OFFICE OF PM, KIT NASCIMENTO, SAID HE DID NOT  
EXPECT BURNHAM TO RESUME FULL DUTIES FOR ABOUT TWO MORE WEEKS.  
ALTHOUGH BURNHAM HAS BEEN FOLLOWING POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT  
AFFAIRS AND MAKING SOME DECISIONS DURING MEETINGS WITH KEY  
OFFICIALS DURING RECENT WEEKS, UNTIL LAST WEEK HE  
HAD REMAINED CONFINED TO HIS RESIDENCE. BURNHAM  
REPORTEDLY HAS LOST WEIGHT AND REMAINS ON A STRICT  
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DIET, BUT MANAGES TO CONTRAVENE DOCTORS' INSTRUCTIONS  
THAT HE SHOULD NOT SMOKE. HE APPARENTLY NOW SMOKES  
AND DRINKS MODERATELY.

3. COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BURNHAM HAS  
RESUMED HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES IS UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED  
TO QUELL SPECULATION ABOUT HIS POLITICAL FUTURE AND

PARTLY TO APPEASE HIS IMPATIENCE AND FRUSTRATION  
OVER BEING FORCED TO SIT ON THE MARGIN OF GOG  
OPERATIONS WHEN, IN THE PAST, HE WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED  
IN DAY-TO-DAY DETAILS OF GOG OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH  
OFFICIALS WHO HAVE VISITED HIM VARY IN THEIR  
PREDICTIONS TO US ABOUT WHETHER HE WILL FULLY RECOVER AND HIS  
DOCTORS DO NOT TALK ABOUT HIS CONDITION, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION  
THAT HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESUME HIS OLD FRENETIC  
PACE FOR SOME TIME, IF EVER, AND THAT UPON RESUMING  
HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES HE WILL HAVE TO CHANGE HIS STYLE  
OF WORK. END COMMENT.  
BLACKEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, HEALTH, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GEORGE00522  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770088-0664  
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**Message ID:** 2e38f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 GEORGETOWN 408  
**Retention:** 0  
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**SAS ID:** 3110125  
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**Subject:** PRIME MINISTER'S HEALTH  
**TAGS:** PGOV, GY, (BURNHAM, L F S)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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